REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claim 10 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being vague and indefinite; Claim 10 has been indicated as being allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph and Claims 5-6 and 11-14 have been allowed. Claims 1-4, 7-9 and 15 and 16 have been canceled, without prejudice, and thus, Claims 5-6 and 10-14 remain active.

Considering then the rejection of Claim 10 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, it is to be noted that the language of Claim 10 has now been appropriately amended to claim that the connecting portion has rib portions defining a concavity therebetween and that the vertex of the notch corresponds with the location of one of the rib portions of the connecting portion, as supported by the discussion at page 4, line 15 through page 5, line 7 of the specification. It is therefore submitted that Claim 10 as now amended fully complies with 35 U.S.C. §112. In view of the foregoing and in view of the fact that Claim 10 has been indicated as being allowable if amended to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, it is submitted that Claim 10 now merits indication of allowability.

Application No. 10/796,144 Reply to Office Action of November 30, 2007.

In view of the Examiner's allowance of the remaining Claims 5-6 and 11-14, an early and favorable Office Action is believed to be in order and the same is hereby respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND, MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.

Customer Number 22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000 Fax: (703) 413 -2220 (OSMMN 08/07) JDH/rac Gregory J. Maier Attorney of Record Registration No. 25,590

James D. Hamilton Registration No. 28,421

1:\ATTY\JDH\25s\250s\250126US\250126US MOD AM DUE 2-29-08.DOC